

SENATE DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-2426 • Fax: 517-373-2964
E-mail: senmschauer@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD19



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CONTACT: Sen. Mark Schauer
517-373-2436

Albion Community Opens New Youth Centers

Local Officials, Kids Celebrate Project Completion

ALBION—Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek), along with Albion Mayor William Wheaton, Kids At Hope Foundation Founder Rick Miller, and area faith leaders and health officials, unveiled two new youth centers designed to address the realistic and pressing needs of local kids.

“This is such an impressive project, with a variety of agencies and interests working together for the good of Albion-area youth,” said Schauer. “The excitement in the eyes and voices of the kids I’ve met here is a true testament to the importance of these programs. Keeping children healthy and happy will enable them to focus on learning and getting the skills they need to get a good-paying job and have a successful life.”

The Wildcats Wellness Center and Kids At Hope Youth Development Center are both a direct result of the Youth Development Summit hosted at Albion College in November 2004, which identified the needs and issues facing local youth. The Wildcats Wellness Center is a primary care medical facility located at Albion High School that will serve youth ages 10-21 years old. It will cover traditional medical services while also targeting high-risk needs like pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease testing, crisis intervention and substance abuse education and counseling.

The Kids At Hope Youth Development Center is a new program housed at the First United Methodist Church that seeks to arm area kids with both the skills and outlook to succeed. The center is part of a national initiative designed to turn “youth at risk” into “kids at hope” through a development strategy, belief system, and community network that supports and empowers kids.

“It’s amazing to finally see this vision realized,” said Kevin Brown, Director of Youth Development and Community Outreach in Albion. “We all got together at the Summit in 2004 and realized the tough issues facing our children. Our work is about children at hope, and both the Wildcats Wellness Center and the Kids At Hope Youth Development Center emphasize our hope and faith in all of our children.”

Senator Schauer is proud to support community cooperation and program development such as this that ensure the youth of today have every opportunity to succeed.

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